

Message Text

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PAGE 01 OSLO 03781 161616Z

51 S

ACTION DLOS-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 COA-02 EB-11 COME-00

INT-08 PM-07 NSC-07 SP-03 SS-20 RSC-01 CIAE-00 INR-11

NSAE-00 CG-00 DOTE-00 FEAE-00 SCI-06 EPA-04 CEQ-02

L-03 OMB-01 DODE-00 DRC-01 /150 W

----- 094211

R 161449Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8573

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION USUN NY

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 3781

CARACAS FOR LOS DEL

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIS PLOS NO

SUBJECT: MEETING WITH PRIME MINISTER BRATTELI -- FISHERY BOUNDARY

REF: (A) OSLO 3763

(B) OSLO 2209

1. ON AUGUST 15 I RAISED THE QUESTION OF POSSIBLE UNIL-
ATERAL EXTENSION OF NORWAY'S FISHING LIMITS WITH PRIME
MINISTER BRATTELI. BRATTELI SAID HE FEELS THAT FOR THE
MOMENT HE CAN KEEP THE QUESTION OF UNILATERAL EXTENSION
OF NORWAY'S FISHING LIMITS UNDER WRAPS.

IT IS IMPORTANT, HOWEVER, HE SAID

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PAGE 02 OSLO 03781 161616Z

THAT SOMETHING COME OUT OF CARACAS THAT SHOWS THAT SOMETHING

IS BEING DONE SO THAT NORWAY CAN JUSTIFY DEFERRING UNILATERAL ACTION PENDING THE NEXT SESSION OF THE LOS CONFERENCE. NORWAY HAD A LONG TRADITION OF COMPLIANCE WITH INTERNATIONAL LAW, HE STATED. ALTHOUGH IN THE PAST THIS COMPLIANCE MAY HAVE BEEN IMPOSED BY FOREIGN POWERS AND RULERS, BRATTELI SAID THAT TODAY THERE WERE ALSO DIRECT BENEFITS TO PLAYING THE MULTILATERAL GAME. IF NORWAY TOOK UNILATERAL ACTION TO EXTEND ITS FISHING LIMITATIONS, IT COULD GET CAUGHT OUT IF THE OTHER COUNTRIES WERE TO TAKE UNILATERAL ACTION AFFECTING OIL. HE ALSO INDICATED HIS AWARENESS OF PRESSURES IN THE U.S. FOR EXTENSION BY SAYING THAT OTHER COUNTRIES WERE EXPERIENCING THE SAME DEMANDS. IN NORWAY THE PROBLEM WAS PARTICULARLY DIFFICULT, HE SAID, BECAUSE, ALTHOUGH THE LARGEST CONCENTRATION OF FISHERMEN WAS IN NORTH NORWAY, THEY COULD BE FOUND IN ALL PARTS OF THE COUNTRY. WHILE THE TOTAL NUMBER OF FISHERMEN WAS SMALL, THEY HAD "A VERY SUBSTANTIAL POLITICAL CLOUT."

2. COMMENT: BRATTELI SEEMS CONFIDENT THAT HE HAS THIS SITUATION IN HAND, ALTHOUGH PRESSURE FOR UNILATERAL ACTION IS LIKELY TO BUILD UP. HE FEELS HE WILL NEED SOME EVIDENCE THAT THE LOS CONFERENCE SEEMS TO BE MAKING PROGRESS IN THIS AREA IN ORDER TO CONTAIN DEMANDS FOR A NORWEGIAN EXTENSION. THE ISSUE IS PARTICULARLY SENSITIVE IN NORTH NORWAY WHERE THE LABOR PARTY IS UNDER FIRE FOR NOT MOVING ON EXTENSION AND WHERE THERE IS CONSIDERABLE SYMPATHY FOR ICELAND'S ACTIONS LAST YEAR. MEANWHILE, BRATTELI HAS PROMISED A THOROUGH REVIEW OF THE FISHING INDUSTRY AND OF GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE TO IT AND TO DRAW UP A NEW LONG-TERM PLAN FOR ITS IMPROVEMENT.

BYRNE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LAW OF THE SEA, FISHING LIMITS, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 AUG 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: kelleyw0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974OSLO03781
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740226-0433
From: OSLO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740841/aaaabjak.tel
Line Count: 93
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION DLOS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: (A) OSLO 3763
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: kelleyw0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13 MAY 2002 by garlanwa>; APPROVED <25-Sep-2002 by kelleyw0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MEETING WITH PRIME MINISTER BRATTELI -- FISHERY BOUNDARY
TAGS: EFIS, PLOS, NO, (BRATTELI)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005